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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 18 | Humidity 37% Fog/mist in the morning and partly cloudy sky later Sensex 61,332 | Nifty 18,255 | Gold 49,100 | Silver 65,900 | Dollar 74.15 | Euro 84.80 | GBP 101.69

CITY / PAGE 3

Covid would be soon over, but... Omicron

CITY / PAGE 4

The all-new planetarium

Barring a few institutions, Bengaluru is yet to walk the extra mile to provide best of educational facilities for specially abled students

ACCESS-SORRY

E-library, web access, lifts, enabling units wanted

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

When it comes to places of higher education being accessible to all, a lot remains to be done in colleges of Bengaluru.

Though many campuses claim to have basic physical infrastructure in place for the specially abled, the institutions lack proper educational resources and other infrastructure required.

From unequipped libraries to inapt websites, lack of trained teachers to absence of inclusive pedagogy, many government-run city campuses have a long way to go in ensuring an accessible environment.

While majority of the colleges have physical infrastructure such as ramps, handrails and specially designed toilets, only a handful have walked the extra mile and incorporated facilities like e-libraries, accessible websites, disabled-friendly lifts, assistive devices for educational needs and separate on-campus enabling units to address the concerns of the specially abled.

"We have the physical infrastructure in place. Apart from ramps and handrails, we have tactile floors in college buildings and hostels to help the specially abled students to navigate easily. However, we do not have educational infrastructure such as systems with speakers and suitable software for the students to access course materials," said Dr H Prakash,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

> **"There are ramps, handrails and specially designed toilets for those with reduced mobility. However, there is no provision for those with learning disability or visual impairment to access learning resources**
>
> – Dr Chandrashekar B, principal, RC College

Trees of Life

1,002 trees being readied for transplantation in biggest ever such drive in Bengaluru

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As the Karnataka Road Development Corporation (KRDCL) is constructing an alternative road to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) from Nelamangala, 1,002 trees are getting ready for transplantation in the outskirts.

Once completed, it shall be the biggest ever transplantation of trees in the city for any project. Earlier, 108 trees were transplanted by the Namma Metro in Whitefield and a crowd-funded tree transplantation was held in Sarjapur.

The latest of the trees in question to be transplanted are in Madure, Rajanukunte, Thimmasandra, and Betta Halasuru road in the outskirts. The contractor is preparing to transplant the trees. Earlier, many trees were razed for road widening which had drawn widespread criticism. Now, bowing to the pressure from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

Dear readers, Starting this weekend, the cover price of your favourite newspaper has been revised to Rs 4 on Saturdays and Sundays only

'Kids are less infected than in second wave'

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com
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Are kids getting more infected in the third wave? The debate is on with many experts claiming that the cases are definitely on the rise. However, the statistics from the State War room data says otherwise.

According to the war room data, the ratio of positivity rate in children (0-18 years) to adult positivity rate has been lesser. In 2021, the proportional ratio was 0.57 per cent in April 2021, 0.92 per cent in May, 0.59 per cent in November, 0.42 per cent in December 2021 and 0.35 per cent in January this year. In January, so far, the positivity rate among kids is 2.71 per cent.

Analysing this trend, Munish Moudgil who heads the State War room, said, "There does not appear to be an increase in infection rate among children in the third wave when compared to the second. In fact, the numbers reveal that infection rate among children has come down during the third wave. Hence, the third wave is affecting adults more than children."

Dr Supraja Chandrasekhar (Consultant Paediatric Intensivist at Manipal Hospital, Yeswanthpur) said, "When it comes to acute Covid infection the reasons for admission were of different reasons like trauma, dengue, typhoid infections. The actual covid infection of the lung was very less. Around one per cent of the kids needed Remedisvir or steroids and others were mild symptomatic and managed at home."

In the last few weeks, we have seen a surge in children getting positive, but all are mild symptomatic, she added. "Second wave taught us not to shift children from one place to another in case parents are positive. Children, even asymptomatic, can spread the infection faster. They should isolate within the family premises and follow covid-appropriate behaviour and if required they should get tested once again on the fifth day if symptoms are present."

Health workers prepare shots for children eligible for the vaccine

Do kids need vaccines?

Dr T Jacob John (Former Director, ICMR's Centre of Advanced Research in Virology, Retired professor and Head of the Department of Clinical Virology and Microbiology at CMC Vellore) said, "Studies say that vaccination can prevent children from developing serious conditions post covid, such as diabetes. I would argue that children deserve vaccines so the risk is low.

"Only extremely safe vaccines should be rolled out, especially in a country like India where if anything goes wrong, managing the consequences would be difficult. In the West, where there is more data, it was observed that many children were hospitalised and many died. Hence, the existing vaccines were used."

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4 THINGS TO DO

01 Shopping therapy

Indulge yourself with this 'Sankranti Special Madhurya Online Sale' and give your wardrobe and home a makeover. Products include apparel (men's wear, ladies' wear and kids' wear) stoles, dupattas in various materials including chiffon, cotton and silk, jewellery of all kinds including silver, silk and Kanchi cotton saris, home décor products, Channapatna toys, pooja essentials and brass items. The proceeds will help girls' education in several non-profit schools across India.
Where: madhurya.com; When: Till Jan 31
Contact: 7019138680/ 9886051512

02 Calling all art lovers

For the first time in the history of Bengaluru, an international printing press has been organised by the Central Conservatory Academy. The exhibition, which is an important medium of fine art, showcases works from 14 countries including India, Germany, Russia, the Netherlands, Mexico, Bangladesh, the US, France, Argentina, Croatia, Israel, Peru, and Nepal. It features 28 international collections, 33 invited artists, and 121 nationally recognized works. The exhibition of this very rare artwork is a must-see for artists and art lovers.
Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road; When: Till Jan 23
Contact: 9845059660

03 Go watch a play

Catch Chaduranga Mattu Kaththe (The Chess and The Donkey), a psycho-analytical dark drama. Human beings often hide their inner instincts and seldom express what they truly experience. What happens when you express your authentic self not fall into norms the society has created? The plays throws light on the clashes that happen between you, your feelings and norms of society. This play throws light upon the conflicts each of us experience.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar Phase 2
When: Jan 19, 7:30 pm;
Tickets: Rs 150, bookmyshow.com

04 All about palaces

If history fascinates you, catch a special discussion on Palaces as Museums: Collecting and Connoisseurship in the states of Baroda and Mysore. Prof Janaki Nair and Dr Priya Maholay-Jaradi reflect on collecting and connoisseurship in the states of Baroda and Mysore, followed by a discussion with Prof Tapati Guha-Thakurta. This is part of a series of lectures and discussions on collections, museums, and the shaping of Indian art history curated by Guha-Thakurta.
Where: Zoom; When: Jan 21, 6 pm
Register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3dffLqLgSf2LKz4S-hTFIg

Covid would be soon over, but... Omicron

While previous variants were likely to attack lungs, the new variant attacks the upper respiratory system, say experts

Hamza Irfan Qazi
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KAUSHIK JN

A health official collects swab for RT-PCR test in Bengaluru

Had it not been for the Omicron variant of covid-19, we would have started seeing the beginning of the end of the pandemic and returned to normalcy. As we enter the 3rd wave, experts say that Omicron too is evolving and there are multiple variants of the strain already out there.

While previous covid-19 variants were likely to attack the lungs, Omicron is more likely to attack the upper respiratory system, say experts. Another characteristic of the Omicron variant is that many youths are being infected by it as compared to the previous variants. These infections are not just cough and cold either as many patients between the ages of 5 and 25 are experiencing high fevers.

The delta variant lowered the age of those infected with the virus. People who were younger became sicker, says Dr V Ramasubramanian, Infectious Diseases & Tropical Medicine Consultant, Apollo Hospitals during a panel discussion organised by Neuberg Diagnostics on Thursday. "But, during this wave, many youths are coming in with high fevers. Another symptom of the Omicron variant that was not as dominant in the previous variants is throat pain. Lots of people during this wave are complaining of severe throat pain and are experiencing difficulty in swallowing. Doctors are concerned that to reduce their throat pain, many people may self-prescribe antibiotics."

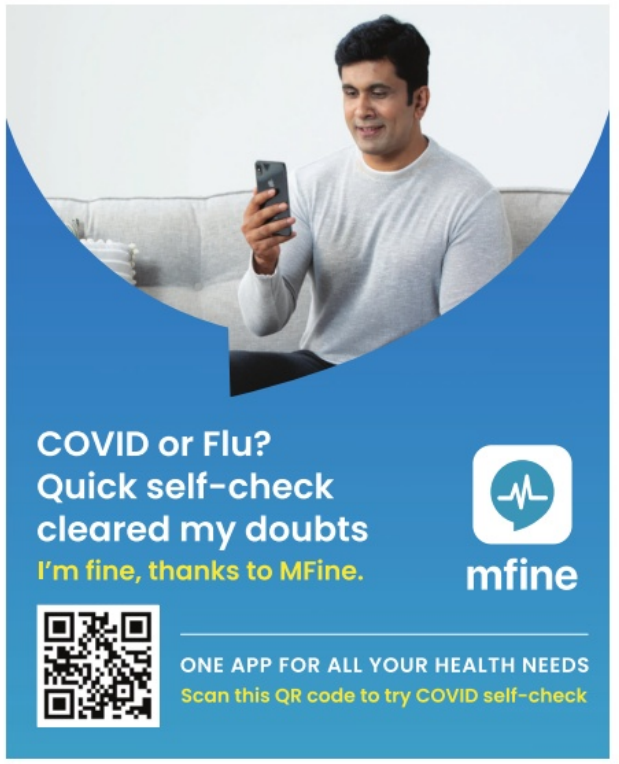
> **We may soon see that Omicron and Delta variants will co-circulate in the population. Vaccination is the best shot in putting an end to the pandemic**
>
> – Health expert

With so much medical information related to covid-19 out there, many people have mistaken themselves for covid experts and are self-medicating. Experts strongly warn against self-medicating.

The silver lining of the Omicron variant is that the rate of recovery is much higher and quicker. Most people, including those who are very old, recover within 2-3 days of catching the infection. Some of the credit for milder infections goes to vaccines.

When is the covid pandemic getting over

Experts say we may soon see a scenario where the Omicron and Delta variants will co circulate in the population. Vaccinating is the best shot in putting an end to the pandemic. But as the virus continues to evolve, many people who are double vaccinated are also catching the Omicron variant of Covid-19. In fact, experts say that since those who are double vaccinated are more likely to be careless with covid-19 precautions, they are more likely in some scenarios to catch the virus. "To combat the new mutations, we may soon see modified versions of the vaccines being introduced as well as boosters. It may be another year before we can say for sure that normal is returning," said an expert.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'Metro riders can top-up cards at station'

Reacting to the Bangalore Mirror's story "Unsmart Policy", BL Yashavanth Chavan, BMRCL's Chief Public Relations Officer said, "The 60-day limit is for the online recharges and for completion of transactions initiated online for topping up smart cards. To facilitate instant online recharge, card top-up terminals are placed at all Metro stations to claim the top-up amount."

The recharged amount in smart cards can be updated through these card top-up terminals for 60 days, Chavan stated, adding that commuters who do not like to avail the online services may use the station level recharges via cash, Point of Sale (POS) or QR code based modes.

Regarding commuters' making allegations that recharges done through on-line during lockdown had lapsed, Chavan clarified, "The amount available in the Smart card as stored value is usable by commuters at any point of time. It may be noted that BMRCL had disabled the online recharge services due to train stoppage so that no recharges are done online due to No Metro service. After commencement of Metro Services, the validity period of online recharges which lapsed during the Lockdown, was extended by additional 60 days. This was done for the benefit of commuters." – BMB

Covid peak likely by Feb

Only vaccination can contain infection spread, says health minister

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The covid graph is climbing drastically in the city with Bengaluru reporting 20,121 cases on Friday (28,723 in Karnataka). As Bengaluru is in the grip of covid third wave, the most-asked question now is when will the cases peak in the city. Though there are no definitive answers, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar says that we are just in the beginning of the third wave and the covid may peak only in February first week and the cases may see a decline from February third week.

On the other hand, Dr V Ravi (Retired professor of neurovirology at NIMHANS and Nodal Officer for genomic confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 Government of Karnataka) said during a panel discussion), "Mumbai looks like it is almost over its peak. Delhi looks like it is almost there at the peak. Bengaluru will peak around the last week of this month. Other cities are almost peaking. There are various models for the third wave that predict that nationwide cases may rise its peak around mid-February and come down by March."

Omicron is being observed in those who are double vaccinated as well, Dr Ravi said adding: "I am an Omicron patient, I recovered only one week ago. We learn two things from this. One, Omicron is escaping antibody response for the existing vaccine. But, it helps prevent serious illness and death. Secondly, double vaccinated individuals may be the ones going around and not following covid-appropriate behaviour. Therefore, the chances of them getting infected is more."

Reacting to the increase in cases in Bengaluru, Dr Sudhakar said, "Although the cases are increasing day by day, only about 5 to 6 per cent are getting hospitalised. However, it is a matter of concern that nursing staff are getting infected. So, we should not be complacent as it may overwhelm our health infrastructure. Experts have opined that the third wave has not peaked yet in the state and it may peak by February first week."

The minister added that covid can be defeated only through the vaccine. "So far, about 83,937 doses have been given at BMCRI including administering the vaccine on 420 lactating mothers and 1,179 pregnant women. Even the WHO has been urging everyone to take vaccines.

No lockdown

Dr Sudhakar has said that there won't be any lockdown in Bengaluru. "There have been many economic woes during the previous two lockdowns. Even during the Thursday meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also stressed that there was no need for a lockdown. So, instead of a lockdown, we will take other measures. Weekend restrictions have been enforced from last week. We can't expect the infection to reduce in seven days. In the first two waves, we needed at least 14 days to break the chain. It is less in this wave, but the infection is spreading 5-6 times faster. We will get to see the result of the weekend curfew in the next few days."

HC directs govt not to permit gatherings

The High Court on Friday directed the state government to execute the standard operating procedure (SOP) issued on January 4 in all districts in view of the covid-19 pandemic and added that no rallies, dharnas or any other political gathering shall be permitted in the entire state, till the SOP is in operation.

The High Court of Karnataka today heard PILs seeking directions to the state government not to allow rallies, dharnas and to restrain Mekedatu padayatra organised by Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC). Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Suraj Govindaraj heard the matter. Senior counsel Uday Holla appeared for respondent KPCC. Learned counsel informed the bench that the padayatra has been suspended, respecting the Court's observation.

The division bench asked for the decision of the government. On behalf of the government, the Additional Advocate General appeared before the Court and made his submission that the government has issued notice to respondent and the government took all steps to ensure that padayatra is not taken out.

The High Court said that the government has banned only this particular padayatra program but the respondent's stand is that it's been temporarily suspended. –ANI

MIRROR AUTO

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

AUTOMOBILES ARE DEVELOPING AS FAST AS ELECTRONIC GADGETS TODAY. LET'S LOOK AT SOME FUTURISTIC CAR FEATURES THAT WILL MAKE DRIVING EASIER AND EXCITING

TAKING THE ROAD TO THE FUTURE

Photos: © iStock

Respedit.Bangalore
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New technology is going to change the way we drive our cars. The speed at which technology in the automobile sector is evolving will soon make the driving experience quite different from what it was a few years ago. The innovations are also environment-friendly. Let's look at some of the newly adopted and upcoming car technologies that will make driving much easier, exciting and responsible.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Virtual assistant, heads-up display, gesture control and fully digital instrument cluster are some of the innovative technologies that most automobile companies are coming up with. All these features make the driving experience better and convenient. Moreover, the technology also aids the driver to concentrate more on the road while multitasking. Many believe the future of cars is autonomous driving. And though many car lovers would like to continue to drive into eternity, fast progress is being made towards introducing self-driving vehicles on the roads. Future cars may use sensors, cameras, and AI to navigate on their own.

Biometric technology is making considerable inroads into various parts of our lives. Some car manufacturers are experimenting with biometrics' security aspect, like entering and starting the car using finger impressions. The Augmented Reality (AR) dashboards will project information on windshields. This technology will have you look at the road more because of the data projected on the glass. The automotive industry is experiencing the biggest upheaval in recent years, which is working hand-in-hand with major technology companies to deliver the most advanced and safest vehicles. Like with any forward-looking industry, the automotive sector is always finding ways to cram more innovation into the vehicles and cars that can monitor a driver's health, or not even require a driver at all are just some examples of what carmakers are working on today and in few years engineers will make the vehicles we drive true marvels of futuristic engineering.

ELECTRIC FUTURE

Electric cars are the future. The biggest electric car manufacturer sold about half a million cars in North America. That is in the territory of the big three German luxury cars combined. The market in India will move in that direction, according to experts. Infrastructure will always come first. Businesses have been adopting EVs already out in the market. One of the roadblocks is that electric vehicles consume massive amounts of energy. Experts believe that the infrastructure possibly needs a lot of upgradation soon.

The push should be moving towards the next generation of charging technology. Cutting-edge variants of lithium-ion batteries is being used by major international brands. In India, the next revolution will be the original equipment manufacturers offering the latest and greatest technology.

Steering onto the right road

TO BE ABLE TO RIDE SAFELY IN YOUR OWN CAR DURING THE PANDEMIC IS DRIVING PEOPLE TO MAKE AUTOMOBILE PURCHASES EVEN IN ITS MIDST

Photo: © iStock

Respedit.Bangalore
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From heading towards a destination or being out just for the joy of the journey, the road has a charm of its own. But as good as that sounds, thanks to the pandemic, it might be a difficult task to achieve right now. While businesses including the auto industry suffered a setback during the pandemic, the situation seems to be picking up, slowly, but surely. "While sales were down, considering the situation we are in, I would say the situation is not that bad," says Balaji, GM, operations, of a well-known auto dealership.

CHANGING DYNAMICS

The dynamics of the market are definitely changing. And the only way forward is to adapt to this new normal. Variety in terms of products, good offers, convenience and safety of the customers, keeping these aspects in mind always goes a long way in sales. "One of the major reasons that car sales are getting better by the day, is people's concern for safety. With public transport not a great option and the risk of safety in using cab services, many people are looking at buying cars as a safer alternative for their families. If they were not thinking about it earlier, they definitely have started considering it now," he adds.

With such changes happening around the world, there are bound to be major changes in the way the market operates as well. "Earlier, people would come in to the store with their entire families, get a good look at the models in their budget range, take test drives and we would go back and forth over things multiple times before zeroing on a car. Now since everything is happening online, digital enquires have increased quite a bit, and the conversion rate from enquiry to sale has almost doubled in the past few months," says Sumod Kumar, a senior car sales executive. Right from the colour and model, to finance options and documentation, everything is dealt with online, making it more convenient for customers to pick out a car of their choice without having to risk their safety.

SAFE DRIVE

That said, customers do have to come to the dealership for a test drive and to take possession of their car. And for every dealership, the safety of their customers is paramount. "The cars that are doing well in terms of sales right now are the one in the mid-range segment and the used cars segment. Safety is our highest priority. Only if the customer is guaranteed a safe buying experience will sales increase. We make sure that all the cars and our showrooms are disinfected every day. We also are having regular check-ups for our employees to make sure that none of them have been infected," says Jayaram A, general manager, of a well-known auto dealership.

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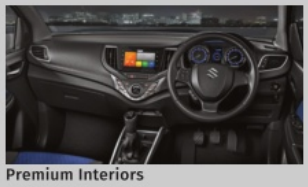
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The planetarium is getting a new look

Project value is Rs 31,19,80,000. New Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium building will be ready by November

Work is progressing at a fast pace at the site

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Bengaluru Smart City Limited's (BSCL's) project to upgrade Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium with a well-equipped auditorium and lecturer hall is aimed to be completed by November.

Due to lack of space, the planetarium faced problems conducting research, education and advancement programmes. The project was at its initial stage last year. Former BBMP commissioner BH Anil Kumar was appointed to it. However, the project has gained momentum now and BSCL has started to carry works out at the site.

BSCL managing director Rajender Cholan said, "We aim to finish the project by November. The work is progressing at a faster pace. This project will help many children as a large auditorium with a seating capacity of 600 and four lecture halls with a seating capacity of 50 and one lecture hall with a seating capacity of 100 will be added to the planetarium. The auditorium and lecture halls will allow the planetarium to conduct more programmes and enable them to reach out to more students and graduates."

Currently the project value is Rs 31,19,80,000. Apart from a large seating capacity, the planetarium will also have a board room, chairman room, observatory telescope, room for amateur scientists, lobby area, parking space for 60 cars and an STP of 20 KLD.

A large auditorium, four lecture halls, space for amateur scientists, observatory telescope, parking and so much more are included in Smart City's project

The site area is 6,772.95 sqm. The total area, including a ground plus three-floor building, will be 9,949.01 sqm.

The project will be designed keeping an eco-friendly environment in mind so the quality of the indoor environment will be looked into. CO2 monitoring will be carried out, minimising of indoor and outdoor pollutants, air quality testing after construction and before occupancy will also be carried out. Day lighting will be present.

Water conversation is also being looked into; rainwater harvesting, roof and non-roof will be carried out and water-efficient plumbing fixtures will be added.

Moin, engineer, Ideck Infrastructure Development, Project Management Consulting, said, "More staff members have been hired for the project. Currently it is running at a fast pace and it will be completed by November. For the lecturer room, the slabs have already been laid. The slabs for the auditorium are still being laid. We are trying to retain all the trees that are present at the site."

No NICE rides at night for bikers

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Management of NICE Road decides to ban two-wheeler riders on the road between 10 pm and 5 am for their safety

Bikers can no longer use NICE Road at night. As per NICE authorities, "The management of NICE Road has decided to stop two-wheeler riders from commuting via the stretch between 10 pm and 5 am with effect from January 16."

Sources said that joint commissioner of police (traffic) BR Ravikanthe Gowda had asked NICE officials to ban bikers due to safety reasons. This order comes after a recent accident in which a biker died. There have been multiple such accidents on the road.

A NICE Road official said, "As it is an expressway, vehicles usually travel at a high speed. We have observed that although bikers are supposed to travel on the extreme lane (which is marked for bikes), many tend to ride on the main carriage way and this distracts other vehicles. This may lead to accidents. The accidents occur more often at night due to darkness and poor lighting. So, on an experimental basis, we have decided ban bikers on the expressway at night."

In fact, many expressways in the country do not allow bikers to use the main carriage way, except the Electronics City expressway and NICE Road. Even the proposed six-lane Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway has plans to keep bikers off the roads.

DCP (traffic- east) KM Shantharaju said that this is a welcome step for the safety of two-wheeler riders and it will help prevent accidents in the long run.

He said, "It is difficult for two-wheeler riders to ride in the dark, especially on NICE Road where other vehicles will be at a high speed... Chances of them overlooking and running over two-wheeler riders are high. Some drink and ride too, which is very dangerous in this lane and even if other motorists are drinking and driving, two-wheeler riders are at a higher risk. Moreover, there is very less visibility in a few places. This will not affect anyone and they can use alternate roads in the city."

Adding to this, DCP (traffic- west) Kuldeep Kumar R Jain said that this was being discussed for a long time and now the NICE authorities have agreed to it.

"There have been several two wheeler accidents reported in the city and this move is to ensure their safety as some of them don't wear helmets in the night while riding on NICE Road. As all vehicles will be moving at high speed it is not possible for us to stop and penalise them at night. Many riders have met with accidents. This will decrease the possibility," he said.

City's traffic experts said that it is not just NICE Road but many flyovers are suitable for bike riders as many have fallen off the flyovers and died.

A traffic expert said, "If you look at the design of many flyovers (except the Airport Road flyover) in the city, most are four-laned and are quite dangerous for bikes. In case of accidents or other issues, bikers try to be on the edges and can fly off and fall onto the road below. It is high time we ban bikes from the flyovers. In fact, along with bikes, even other slow moving vehicles like goods autos should not be allowed."

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Fill in the blanks
Malleswaram

The slabs on the sidewalk on Sampige Road have been removed. This is causing shop owners here to incurr losses as customers can't access their shops.

No cover
Kengeri

Poor barricading is a threat to the civilians' lives.

Accident zone!
Thanisandra

The 26th cross road in 16th Block, Tooba Layout, Thanisandra, is uneven and accidents happen regularly. A person met with an accident recently on the stretch. Authorities should fix this soon.

New normal festivities

Despite innumerable restrictions and strict pandemic norms, people in the city are coming up with new ways to celebrate the starting of the harvest season

KAUSHIK JN

Shreyashi Mukherjee
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Makar Sankranti is one of the most significant festivals in the city. The auspicious festival marks the beginning of the harvesting season in India and is celebrated in a grand way across the country. People from different communities celebrate in their own unique ways. However, though the surge in the Covid-19 cases has dampened celebrations, people are still finding unconventional ways to celebrate the festival with their loved ones.

Sankranti is one of the most eminent festivals of Karnataka. However, due to the restrictions put in place to curb the spread of the virus, people cannot visit their relatives.

Shrikant M, a techie working in Bengaluru says: "I was still able to revive the essence of the festival. "Since I cannot personally visit my relatives due to Covid, I am using online delivery apps to deliver the sweets to my relatives."

Supriya M, 27, a PhD scholar in Bengaluru University felt that due to Covid, celebrations have gone down further, however, she was still trying to make the best of the situation. "Suggi celebrations have changed since we cannot meet more people because of the pandemic. We are celebrating by wishing our relatives online and talking to them on the phone."

Sandhya Ramesh, 23, a physiotherapist in the city said Pongal

> **"Since I cannot personally visit my relatives due to Covid, I am using online delivery apps to deliver the sweets to them** – Shrikant M, a techie

was a festival that was once celebrated with pomp in their household. However, the scenario was different now. "Instead of going to the temple we conduct a small puja at our home only. We videocall our relatives so that they can be included as well. We are also distributing food to the poor children who live around our locality. Since going to the market is not an option, we are buying clothes online and getting them delivered to our relatives."

She added that the exchange of goodies and sweets among their neighbours is also not done anymore as everyone has the fear of extracting covid. The kids are the ones who are suffering the most because they do not get to meet their friends and due to the lack of celebrations, they are missing out on the essence of the festivals well.

Palak Uppal, 24, studying English Honours in Mount Carmel College, is a resident of Jalahalli. In pre-Covid times, Lohri was one of

Citizens in Jayanagar celebrate Sankranti; right, centre row: Pongal celebrations take place at CKC Garden

the biggest festivals for her family and her. "People cannot gather during this time so we will light a bonfire big enough to be seen from the balconies of other houses and then we would invite the people to see it from their balconies. We will play songs on our speakers and enjoy while being safe. That is how we did it last year as well."

To celebrate Lohri, people would also visit the Gurudwara and enjoy the festivities which took place there.

Rajbir Singh, 27, from Jalahalli added, "Lohri used to be a celebration of togetherness. We would arrange for music and bonfires in our Gurudwara and distribute food to the people but due to the new guidelines issued, that does not happen anymore. The Gurudwara is still open, but we have slots now. We allow a particular number of people at a time so that social distancing can be followed. We also send hampers to the people who would previously come here."

Rwittika Bose, 30, living in Whitefield, also celebrated Poush Parbon with her family in a lavish manner. However, working from home has changed the way of the celebrations. "My mother would come here during this time to make my favourite delicacies before the pandemic. But now, I do not want to put her through the risk of travelling so I have taken it upon myself to keep up the tradition of making delicacies. I video-call my mother and we cook together. She cooks back at home and I cook at my place here. Once done, I send it to all my neighbours. It's true I do not get leave during this festival since I am working from home, but I manage for it's not every day that you get to make traditional sweets."

Manjunath K, who sells fruits and flowers on Pipeline Road is facing the brunt of the Covid curfews and lockdowns. "Sankranti used to be one of the days when I would sell the most. Since Covid started, my business has been facing immense losses. The days of festivals are the time where I can expect a little bump in my business. But it has not improved much because people are just celebrating among themselves and not buying many items."

As per the guidelines, only 50 fully vaccinated people will be allowed inside the temple. Apart from the internal celebrations, no external activities such as sevas, etc., will be allowed in the premises of the temple.

IN BRIEF

B'luru-bound fliers have a narrow escape

Hundreds of lives were saved on Sunday after a major collision between two Emirates planes was averted during take-off at Dubai airport. EK-524 Dubai to Hyderabad was scheduled for take-off at 9:45 PM and EK-568 Dubai to Bengaluru Emirates flight was also scheduled to take off.

Unfortunately, the two aircrafts came on one runway. According to the Emirates flight schedule, there is a five-minute gap between the departure times of both flights. "EK-524 from Dubai-Hyderabad was accelerating for take-off from runway 30R, when the crew saw an aircraft coming in the same direction at high speed. Take-off was immediately instructed by ATC to be rejected. The aircraft slowed down safely and cleared the runway via taxiway N4, which crossed the runway. Another Emirates flight EK-568, from Dubai to Bangalore, was rolling for departure to take-off from same runway 30R," a person aware of the incident told ANI. An investigation was launched by the UAE's aviation investigations body The Air Accident Investigation Sector, (AAIS).

HIV+ man hides status, wife files complaint

A woman in Karnataka has lodged a complaint against her husband for hiding his HIV-positive status from her, police said on Friday. In a complaint with the Basavanagudi Woman's Police Station, the victim (25), said she continued to live with him even after learning that he was HIV-infected but he threw her out of the house and snatched all the jewellery given by her parents.

Based on the complaint, the police have registered an FIR against the 35-year-old engineer residing in Basavanagudi. According to police, the accused working at a reputed company married the victim -- an accountant in a private firm -- on March 12, 2018. Even during their honeymoon, he did not consummate the marriage citing stomachache. Upon returning from their honeymoon, he started harassing her for dowry.

He also took lakhs of rupees from his father-in-law on the pretext of taking up computer courses in SAP. Meanwhile, the victim found his medical test report. Later, to her horror, she too tested positive for the virus. The woman told police that her husband had not disclosed his HIV status before marriage. "Now, I am infected with HIV after coming into contact with him," she said to the police.

Thief outside ATM asks for change, flees with ₹9,000

Pragna L Krupa
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A man lost Rs 9,000 after a person allegedly came up to him outside an ATM under the pretext of asking him for change for Rs 500 and snatched the money he had just withdrawn and had in his hand. The incident took place in Ashoknagar police station limits on Tuesday.

Riday Das (20), who hails from Kolkata, has filed a complaint with the Ashoknagar police on Tuesday. Das said, "Around 2 pm, I withdrew Rs 16,000 from the ATM and came out when an unknown person handed me Rs 500 and asked me to give him change. I told him I did not have change and tried to walk away but he insisted that he needed change and blocked my way. I was scared and held onto the money but he snatched it from me. I started to call for help but no one came to my rescue. I tried to take the money back and kept asking people to call the police. I was able to take Rs 7,000 back before he fled."

He said the man overpowered him. "I immediately called the police and filed a complaint," he said.

Police sounded a caution saying people should be alert around ATMs as thieves often stand watch and follow people to get a chance to snatch money. A senior police officer said they have identified the accused in this case and are trying to trace him.

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Need for speed in Konanakunte

Residents near Kanakapura Road worry about lack of safeguards for pedestrians

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KAUSHIK JN

Konanakunte stretch of Kanakapura Road sees more traffic now

Residents of KS Layout are on the edge about speeding vehicles on Kanakapura Road, especially on the Konanakunte stretch, where vehicle movement has increased over the period and pedestrians' safety is always at risk. Residents allege that despite several demands to the BBMP and BMRCL to install speed breakers and high-raised pedestrian crossings, nothing changed.

Mohammed Abdul Aleem, secretary, Changemakers of Kanakapura Road association, said earlier the road used to be in a bad condition due to Metro work but after the roads were fixed, vehicle movement increased. "Since March 2020, we have been requesting BBMP and BMRCL to consider installing speed breakers and high raised pedestrian crossings but they have not been responding. Even the traffic police have written to them, but they are yet to take up the work. A lot of residential and commercial complexes are coming up in the area and it's more developed now. There are no speed breakers on the stretch till Saraki signal and all the speeding vehicles pile up on Saraki signal or the Konanakunte signal," he said.

According to him the accident that claimed a child's life on Thursday could have been prevented if these measures had been taken.

Srivatsa, a resident of Kanakapura Road, said that over the 25 years, he has lived here, all the villages here became part of the city. "Earlier before NICE Road, the stretch was under National Highway and it was not allowed to install speed breakers or pedestrian crossings. Since the time the BBMP took over, we have been raising the issue of safety of pedestrians. Last month after a bus accident that killed a pedestrian in Judicial Layout, the authorities woke up and installed eight high raised pedestrian paths at the junction. Five more are to come on the Konanakunte stretch," he said.

> **There are no speed breakers here till Saraki signal and all vehicles pile up at the Saraki signal or the Konanakunte signal**
>
> –Mohammed Abdul Aleem, Changemakers of Kanakapura

Traffic violation

Srivatsa said KS Layout traffic police station is one of the largest jurisdiction in the city and the traffic police are not able to man the entire area. "Due to the lack of manpower we can't deploy them at all junctions. There is no speed limit in the area. A lot of people ride on the one way and there are be no cops to check. Earlier goods vehicles were not allowed during the peak hours but now there is no one to check. There are many open junctions where heavy vehicles are found speeding. There should be regular shuffling among the cops to prevent them from taking bribes from these drivers to allow them during peak hours," he said.

A senior traffic police officer from KS Layout traffic police station told Bangalore Mirror that the recent accident has no connection to speed breakers.

He said the planned speed breaker and high raised pedestrian crossings are coming much ahead of where the accident happened. "We have been asking the authorities to install the four planned and approved high raised pedestrian crossings and speed breakers which is being delayed for some or the other reason. They have assured us to install them this week. We have deployed all our existing staff in the major junctions to control the traffic and also to stop violations," he said.

Govt blinks; guest lecturers firm

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Bangalore Mirror
lo end in sight for protesting teachers

BM's report on Jan 5

Bowing to the pressure from guest lecturers, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced a slew of measures on Friday, but guest lecturers are not mollified. Bommai tweeted the news of approval of the finance department on demands of the protesting guest lecturers in the state.

The government has also increased the monthly honorarium of guest lecturers based on their eligibility and experience. It also raised the workload of the present 8/10 hours to a maximum of 15 hours. Those who have served more than five years and have qualifications as per UGC will get Rs.32,000. Those with fewer than five years experience with UGC qualifications will get Rs.30,000 per month. Those who have served more than five years without UGC qualifications will get Rs.28,000 per month and those who served fewer than five years without UGC qualifications will get Rs.26,000 honorarium.

The CM also announced other benefits like appointments will be made for 10 months instead of semesters. The Honorarium will be paid before the 10th of every month. Priority will be given to those who served as guest lecturers when appointing as guest lecturers.

Reacting to this, Govt First Grade College Guest Lecturer state coordinating committee's State Media Spokesperson Dr. J C Ravindra told Bangalore Mirror, "There is no job security and payment is done for only 10 months. Every year we have to go through a rigorous selection process. Fifty percent of guest lecturers are losing their jobs. This is not sweet news for guest lecturers, this is really bitter news. There is no use of this. This is against our interests." Another protesting lecturer added, "Our demand is for job regularisation. When you allow 15 hours of work, only 50% can be accommodated with this order. Not helpful at all. We are requesting that we be appointed and merged with other departments. We are not asking for the post of professors. We need any job whether it is teaching or non-teaching. The only demand is regularising our jobs. In 2011, the Government appointed the JOC lecturers and merged them into other departments. Most of the JOC lecturers are working in other departments as FDA and other positions."

The guest lecturers will take a call on their protest shortly.

RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

Write to him at c-rajmohan.sudhakar@timesgroup.com

Barbets of Bengaluru

REHMAN ABUBAKR/VIA WIKIPEDIA

White cheeked barbet

A living entity that can put the gamut of mechanical noises in the city to shame is the barbet. The barbet is quite the common bird of Bengaluru canopy if you are the sort of person who stops to listen to birdsong in the urban cacophony. Well, you don't have to really stop to listen to this bird. Oftentimes, it is right in your ear.

I would say quite overlooked too, this avian, for its peculiarities — the bizarre call, shy nature and somewhat 'relentless' demeanour — whiskers, brows, cheeks and all — perfectly blending into the green as it is meant to.

The only time of the year that you get a good look at the barbet is perhaps the fall when some trees shed leaves exposing the bird's dominion.

The barbet lives almost all its life in the canopy, nesting in tree hollows and gathering grub from trees — mainly fruits, the occasional insect, worm or tiny gecko.

Most of us could immediately associate with the bird, as I mentioned before, not recognising the creature by sight but with its peculiar call that reverberates in neighbourhoods — kutur... kutur... kutur... kutur...; has an unabashed feel to it. Perhaps, a warning to approaching 'cutters' of wood, eager to fell branches to make way for urban infrastructure, you see.

In most cases, there will be more than one barbet in the neighbourhood calling, as though answering each other's call just as the koels.

You could call it nature's way of getting back at shrill horns and engines, earthmovers, concrete mixers, chainsaws, drills and hammers at work that almost tear the ear diaphragms of all living beings in the city day after day — even of the perpetrators of the noises themselves. The barbet's is such a sonorous call for a small greenish bird, pretty much as though meditating on it.

Now, the reason why I bring up the barbet's call is the noise in the city, the hum of life, or perhaps of human life, in the urban expanse. The other day, BM reported how the mechanical sound of the city has breached the prescribed levels as recorded at stations set up for the purpose by the state pollution control board.

While authorities adopt awareness drives to keep decibel levels at the permissible limit, it is critical to understand how this noise interferes with life in the city.

Perhaps the barbet evolved such a deep call to counter the urban noise drivel and locate other barbets that may be far off, as humans push the decibels with the machines. Nature does come with its own communication design. Of late, especially our cities are jamming primeval bionetworks of flora and fauna that sustain urban wildlife.

As soon as a bore-well sinking unit pulls up in a neighbourhood — legal or not — all the fauna in the canopy there scurry for cover, including the barbets, koels, bulbuls, wagtails, swallows, squirrels, sparrow hawks, parakeets, the occasional oriole, tailor birds, crows, humming birds and lizards such as the rock agamas and many more. The deafening sound of the generator that powers the drill into the heart of the earth in search of water, displaces the barbets and other animals, at least for the day.

Demolition of old constructions to make way for new is another source of noise pollution — the hammers and drills go on to work again — vehicular noise notwithstanding. The coronavirus lockdown was a breather somewhat bringing these terrible sounds to a halt amid the migrant workers' exodus. Now, once again the works are on.

The mechanical hum of the city is interfering with the life cycles of urban wildlife and in all probability has been tormenting our sound lives too — the barbet just being a single case in point that relentlessly sounds a call an octave higher to catch up. Sound is an overlooked factor in the urban scape as there are no clear cut regulations during a normal workday to what constitutes noise in residential neighbourhoods.

On a typical holiday, or a lockdown day, as all mechanical sounds come to a halt is when you realise there are so many subtle sounds that contribute to the urban calm which is a rarity today — the barbet being the loudest of contributors to the calming sounds.

Every city has sounds that make it unique such as the peacocks of Delhi and barbets of Bengaluru.

Quite often, as is the tradition, we observe a minute or two of silence while paying respects or prayer. This is indicative of how important a moment of silent introspection is in life - human or animal. When we let mechanical sounds takeover the urban setting, we must not forget to take into account the 'natural' fallout, for us and fellow living beings.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

STANDING TALL AND PROUD

Our reader took this splendid picture of the Kandavara Lake with the majestic Nandi Hills in the background

The picture was clicked by reader **Shatrunjay Sharan.**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Residents fume over ill-maintained parks

The parks are filled with dead leaves, empty liquor bottles, & puddles of muddy water

Shreyashi Mukherjee
mybangaloremirror @timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Chacha Nehru Park of Jayamahal is bearing the brunt of negligence. The residents of the area allege that they are unable to access the park because of the scattered waste and poor maintenance.

The park falls under Ward 63 and is a part of the Shivajinagar constituency. It was built almost 40 years ago. Few years ago, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had made it a habitable space for children and joggers. However, since then, no efforts were taken to maintain the park.

Due to the lack of routine cleaning, the park has accumulated dry leaves. Since the area is not inspected, a lot of people also dump plastic waste there. The children are unable to play because the slides are filled with dry leaves. During the rains, deep puddles of water had formed inside the park which later became a breeding ground for mosquitoes. The residents pointed out how empty liquor bottles were tossed in the premises of the children's play area. One of the residents also claimed to have seen a girl being beaten up by a man.

The residents are witnessing the same problem with the 50-year-old Jayamahal Park. There is a small pond situated at the centre of the park which has been ignored for a few months now. The water in the pond has not been changed or cleaned for quite some time. This has added to the problem of increase in the breeding of mosquitoes. The pond is home to a lot of fishes and turtles so not cleaning the water routinely might affect them adversely. While the condition of the park has not degraded, the residents fear that this park too might face the brunt of negligence by the concerned authorities.

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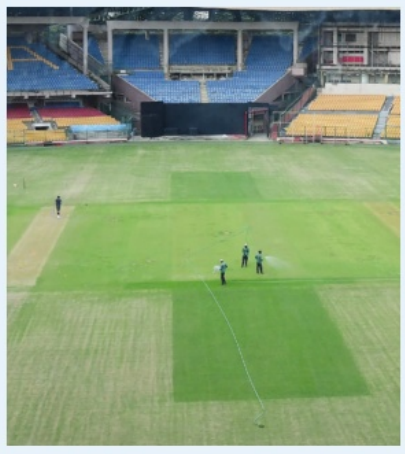

Chinnaswamy Stadium got its name from Mangalam Chinnaswamy, who was the BCCI President from 1977 to 1980 and had served the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA).
He also donated land for the stadium and served the KSCA for four decades.
The first Test match played in Chinnaswamy Stadium was in 1974 and it marked the debut of two West Indies cricket stalwarts: Viv Richards and Gordon Greenidge.
India registered their first Test win on this ground against the touring English team led by Tony Greig in 1976–77. The first ODI match at this venue was played on 6 September 1982. India defeated Sri Lanka by six wickets in that match.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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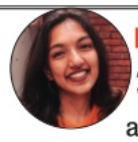
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

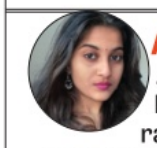
where Bengalureans speak their mind

How has the Covid third wave affected your Sankranti plans? Do you think the State Government has done a good job with the measures taken?



Manisha S
A second-year BA student
We were getting back to normalcy and hoping to celebrate Sankranti in full swing with families and friends. But now, we are forced to limit our celebrations to four walls again. My brother-in-law won't be able to come as there are restrictions on international travel.

Niharika Khemka
A final-year MBA student
I think the State Government has taken adequate measures to curb the growing number of cases. I had no plans for Sankranti because most of my neighbours are covid-positive and I believe that we should follow the protocols and stay safe.



Akanksha Biradar
A second-year journalism student
I do not have any plans for Sankranti but since childhood, we would go to the farm and do a puja, have a meal. We would share crops with neighbouring farmers and fly kites. My wellbeing and safety of my grandparents is most important.

Venkat BR
A third-year engineering student
Earlier, there used to be a family gathering. Now, there is not much bonding between our families that was seen before. But, we still try to call and be in touch and wish each other through technology.

SPEAK TO US

Do you think schools should continue with online classes? If yes, what suggestions would you give for those with no internet?
If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Curfew shuts down Mysuru tourist buzz

Spots that earlier saw over 10,000 visitors just host around 2,000 now

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Weekend curfew and the spreading of covid-19 infections not only affected the tourism industry in the state, but the economy of Mysuru is also severely affected. Mysuru is deserted without tourists. When the businesses were trying to recover from the second wave of covid-19, the fear of the third-wave created panic among the people. Even though the death rate in the third wave is low, the weekend curfew affected the arrival of tourists to the city. Per day before the pandemic, over 10,000 people would visit Mysore Palace, Karanji Lake, Zoo and Chamundi hills. Now, it has come down to 2,000 people.

On January 1, 10, 215 people visited Mysore Palace. The trend followed the next day. But on January 3, only 3,930 tourists visited the palace. These numbers declined from January 6 to 2,532 and January 7 to 2,787 tourists. After the weekend curfew on January 11, the number of tourists reduced to only 2,131. When the number of tourists comes down, it is affecting many sectors which depend on tourism. Most of the hotels are deserted and lodges are empty. Likewise, taxis are also at a loss. As the schools are closed, stationery shops are also in distress.

Meanwhile, the Mysuru Union of Organisations urged the Government to withdraw weekend curfew, 50% rule, and other restrictions. For the last two years, most of the hotels and other businesses are facing severe losses. Government must withdraw all the restrictions and allow free movement to the people. The daily labour is dependent on daily wages. With all these restrictions, they are suffering a lot. So, the Government must implement strict sanitization rules and allow businesses to operate as normal. The Hotel Owner's Association President Narayana Gowda says, "When we are trying to overcome the effects of the pandemic, implementing weekend curfew is not a good decision. The tension among the people is not only affecting the hospitality sector but also the economy.

Mysuru Union of Organisations President BS Prashanth says, "Government is making one rule for the common man and the other for politicians. Weekend curfew is not a solution." He opposes the unscientific restrictions. The lockdown will bring a bad name to the government."

Mysuru streets were empty on Saturday during the weekend lockdown

More tigers in state forests

Wildlife experts believe that the tiger population may have increased in the state forests. While this is good news for many, some fear that this may lead to a human-tiger conflict, as the forest cover is reducing. The tiger population is said to have increased in Bandipur Reserve Forest, BRT hills, Male Mahadeshwara Betta, and other places.

The tiger population in 2018 was estimated at around 173 in Bandipur. Now, there is a chance of an increase in numbers. In Bandipur Forest, the tally is 60 tigers and 12 to 15 in Male Mahadeshwara Betta forests. Currently, the tigers in the Chamarajanagar district are more than 250.

Wildlife photographer R K Madhu said, "We have to think about the protection of habitat along with the protection of tigers. When their population increases, their habitat also increases."

Wildlife expert Sanjay Gubbi added, "Government must rehabilitate the people. It must also support them for two years to the families after rehabilitation."

Railway Station and Airport are empty

Mysuru Railway station was always crowded with commuters. Each day there are 15,000 people who visit the Railway station. Now it is reduced to a mere 5,000. After the second wave, the trains resumed and life was normal. Weekend curfew and night curfew made the people confined to their homes. Flying to Mysuru is an all-time favourite for tourists. Most of the air travellers are tourists. Most of the seats in the flights filled 95 pc of seats. Mysuru-Hyderabad, Mysuru-Chennai, Mysuru-Goa routes were in high demand. But after this third wave, there are 30 pc of seats are empty.

How to transplant 1,002 trees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

critics, KRDCL is going ahead with the transplantation.

"We are preparing to transplant 1,002 trees along the road connecting to Betta Halasur. These trees are among the 1,980 trees that come in the ambit of this road. We have to dig around the trees and transplant them carefully. It may take two to three months to completely re-plant the trees," KRDCL assistant executive engineer KC Ashwath Kumar said.

"There are trees that were planted decades ago. Transplanting is a very good decision. But we don't know how many of these trees will survive. A tree is home to many birds. Sadly, after replanting, the birds can't retain their homes. But, when development is inevitable, this is a good alternative," Vijaykumar, a resident along the road said.

The road was delayed due to lack of land acquisition and other reasons. The highway that starts from Nelamangala traversing Kodipalya and Rajanukunte to KIAL is of 39 km in length and is built on a budget of Rs 310 crore.

Once it is completed, it shall be of immense help to the people travelling from Hassan, Tumakuru, and from other districts.

The other hurdle to developing this road was the transplanting of the 1,002 aforementioned trees. There is a court direction on transplanting the trees and covid-19 further delayed the work.

Transplanting trees requires committed effort. If not done properly, the transplanted trees may die. Transplanting a tree costs from Rs 2,000 to one lakh depending on the size of the tree and distance to the place of transplantation.

Apart from the cost, there are other implications. Care should be given, application of manure and such, and the tree should be tended to under the guidance of an expert. The cut branches are treated with bee wax to help regrowth.

Tree transplantation expert and horticulturist B Ilango Subramanian said: "The process of transplanting a tree is simple. It is like moving a massive object in a trailer. Firstly, the tree is treated with medicines. The base of the tree shall be made into a root ball. Then the tree is tied up in a gunny bag and covered with a rubber tyre. The root ball is later kept in a pit. The gunny bag and rubber tyre are not removed. Instead, it is only cut. We have re-planted a 100 years old Banyan tree. The tree survived. Any tree can survive if properly transplanted. The care after transplanting is crucial. The transplanted tree should be watered daily for four months. Giving organic manure will make leaves sprout and help the tree's root growth. The survival rate is 90% if treated well."

No specially abled infra at city colleges

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

principal, Maharani's Arts, Commerce and Management College for women.

According to Dr Chandrashekar B, principal, RC College, while the campus strives to be welcoming to the differently abled, facilities for the specially abled students and those with learning disabilities are currently absent: "There are ramps, handrails and specially designed toilets for those with reduced mobility. However, there is no provision for those with learning disability or visual impairment to access learning resources."

Lack of adequate resources and facilities on campus has made life a struggle for such students. While they come to terms with the lack of basic infrastructure such as tactile floors and lifts, unavailability of adequate educational resources is agonising.

According to a student at a government college in Yelahanka, writing examinations with the help of scribes is a tedious task. "We get help from our friends and NGOs in writing exams. However, using a scribe makes the process taxing," said the student.

While many claimed to have basic physical infrastructure, there are some campuses devoid of that too.

"Ours is a new college and we are running from the junior college building. We have a library but it is not computerised. Once we have the land for the building, we will plan an accessible and inclusive campus," said Dr KR Mudukrishna, principal, Government First Grade College, Domlur, Shantinagar.

One among few

The Government First Aid College in Vijayanagar is leading from the front. The college with around 40 visually impaired students is not leaving any stone unturned in providing the best facilities and infrastructure to specially abled students.

The campus has a fully functional e-library, screen readers fitted in all systems, study material in braille, trained faculty to meet the needs of students with learning disability; and to top it, an on-campus enabling unit called Chetana.

"We also have scholarships for such students. Ramps, disabled-friendly toilets and handrails are standard basic facilities which exist as well," said a spokesperson of the college.

The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore has an office of diversity and inclusion that trains the faculty and staff through various activities and workshops. "While the audio transcripts are available to those with hearing impairment, computers and iPads are laced with screen readers to help specially abled students access course and study material. For online classes during lockdowns, special software is integrated with zoom calls to ensure live captioning and transcript. The campus also has a mentorship and career progression programme for such students. We work with recruiting organisations too, to make sure that being inclusive is not just a box that they have to tick," said an IIM-B spokesperson on behalf of the office of diversity and inclusion.

Private campuses score

The private colleges in the city seem to have taken a 360-degree view. They say they have been working towards being inclusive and accessible much before it was mandated. Apart from the basic infrastructure, they boast of an inclusive educational, sports and employability infrastructure too.

Some have gone above and beyond the call of duty to have barrier-free sport stadiums and courts. The International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB) has a tennis court, apart from other facilities for its differently abled students.

"They came up with a portable version of an inclusive tennis court after I joined the campus and expressed my interest in the sport. The institute also imported a dozen Sound Tennis balls from Japan. All the buildings have tactile flooring that makes classrooms, labs and even auditoriums easy to access. Lifts are inclusive too, with braille buttons," said Nibin Mathew, an IIITBian, who won the National Blind Tennis Championship held in 2020.

HEALTH TIP: Dark chocolate contains polyphenol, an antioxidant great for anti-ageing and longevity

Kohlrabi is a good source of calcium and magnesium for healthy bones, a healthy heart and blood pressure.

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BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am not circumcised and I recently had sex for the first time. I have had sex a few times since then and I'm somehow not able to feel much pleasure during intercourse. I even tried it without a condom. Will getting circumcised help in experiencing more pleasure? I don't want my future sex life to get affected.

Unless you have a tight foreskin over the penis, there is no need for a circumcision. Pleasuring yourself during intercourse is less related to the sensation in the penis and it has more to do with the sex centres in the brain. It would be better if you work on improving your foreplay skills.

2 I am a 39-year-old man and my girlfriend is 35. We plan to get married soon and I would like to have kids but she says she is too old to get pregnant and it might affect her health as well as the baby's. Is this true? Till what age is it safe for women to give birth? I feel she just doesn't want kids and isn't ready to tell me that. I am not sure what the reason might be. This is affecting me a lot. What should I do?

Formally, it is safe to give birth around the age of 35 years, but now with the advent in technology, births are taking place at a later age as well. Ideally, both of you should visit a gynaecologist who will explain some of the modern methods that can help you have a baby. For a happy and healthy marriage it is important that you both attend pre-marital counselling. Should there be any problem in conception, adopting a child could be a happy alternative.

MEET THE SEXPERTS

Use this QR code to send your questions to us

The heat is on

Find out what are the most common mistakes you can make when using heat on your hair

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Putting a presentable hairstyle together can be tedious and time-consuming. At such times any and every heat styling tool seems to be your best friend to sort out your hair situation and create some look that you can step out of the house (or attend a virtual meeting) with. However, it's no secret that hot iron or tongs cause long-term damage. Of course, there are better and more hair-friendly heat tools making their way into the market nowadays but any kind of heat is heat at the end of the day. And such a prolonged and regular exposure to heat can cause inevitable damage to your hair, inviting split ends, breakage, dullness, hair thinning and more. So, for all the blow-dried or poker-straight hair lovers out there, these are the mistakes you need to stop making while using heat on your hair.

Skipping A Heat Protectant

This is one of the most common mistakes everyone makes. Think laziness or giving it lack of importance, but many beauty gals have still not made a good quality heat protectant a part of their vanity. "A heat protectant is a must-have product for all those who love styling their hair on a regular basis," says Vaishakhi Haria, celebrity hairstylist and founder, Splash Salon. A heat protectant adds a layer of protection to your locks that minimises heat damage since it doesn't reach the hair directly plus seals the moisture in your hair and softens the cuticles. "Most heat protectants work with a similar formula, however, I prefer to pick a spray form as it is very easy to use it. It also spreads evenly all over the hair," adds Haria.

Not Picking The Right Kind Of Styling Tools

Another common mistake most of us make is picking the wrong heat tools for at-home use. It is important to understand the specifics of the product, analyse your usage and pick tools in accordance. "Firstly, it should support the voltage at home. Next, check for a digital temperature control screen so that you can control the heat. Lastly, make sure it's light in weight so that it makes styling easy," suggests Haria.

Using Way Too Much Heat

Guilty as charged. It's super-easy to go overboard with the temperature in order to achieve the perfect hairstyle. But remember, more the heat, more the damage. Hence, monitoring the temperature is crucial to avoid excessive heat damage. "The ideal temperature for dry porous hair should not exceed 180 degrees. For thick, virgin hair, resistant hair one can use upto 210 degrees. Anything beyond 210 degrees is not safe and must strictly be used only by professionals," confirms Haria. Pin these guidelines for the future.

Styling Dirty & Messy Hair

Nothing beats the quality of freshly washed hair, a clean scalp and nicely combed locks. Most of us resort to an iron or a curler on second or third day hair to give it a manageable and fresh look. However, that's not always the best thing to do. Additionally, there's no sin worse than ironing or curling locks with knots. It can accelerate the damage and breakage. "Whenever we use styling tools, tangled hair might get stuck in the straightener or curler. Before doing any type of styling, always detangle the hair properly to avoid breakage and damage. It is also important to have a clean scalp & hair during styling. If the scalp is greasy or oily, then the heat from the styling tools will spread the oil towards the ends making the overall look very limp," shares Haria.

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study finds self-perceptions of stress, ageing have significant influence on physical health

According to a recent study, dwelling on negative aspects of ageing can have a measurable negative impact on your physical health and ability to respond to stress.

The research has been published in the 'Journals of Gerontology'.

Using daily survey data from older adults over a period of 100 days, OSU researchers found that people who reported more positive self-perceptions of ageing were more insulated from the physical effects of stress compared with people who felt more negatively about their own ageing.

"Better self-perceptions of ageing are good for your health, regardless of how much stress you have, or how much stress you perceive you have," said Dakota Witzel, lead author on the paper

and a doctoral candidate in OSU's College of Public Health and Human Sciences.

Research on stress has long found that daily and chronic stress is linked to physical health symptoms, including higher blood pressure, heart disease, and loss of cognitive function. These effects are linked not just to objective stress, but to perceived stress: people's subjective appraisal of an experience as stressful.

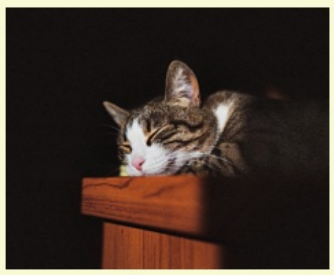
New antibody treatment — for arthritic cats

Good news for senior felines hoping to get a spring back in their step. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Thursday approved its first treatment to control pain associated with osteoarthritis in cats, which is also the first monoclonal antibody drug approved for any animal species.

These lab-grown proteins have grabbed headlines during the pandemic for preventing high-risk people with Covid from getting severely ill.

Not all monoclonal antibodies target pathogens however. Some that are approved for humans with cancer perform other functions, like tagging cancer cells so the immune system can recognize them better and fight them.

Solensia, the new injectable drug approved for cats, works by attaching itself to a protein called



nerve growth factor (NGF) that is involved in the regulation of pain.

When frunevetmab, the active ingredient in Solensia, binds to NGF, it prevents the pain signal from reaching the brain.

"Advancements in modern veterinary medicine have been instrumental in extending the lives of many animals, including cats," said Steven Solomon, director of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, in a statement.

 # Jake Gyllenhaal was starstruck too

Actor Jake Gyllenhaal says he accidentally hit the door while greeting Brad Pitt during his first meeting with the star. The actor said he was nervous but the Oscar-winning star was cool about the gaffe

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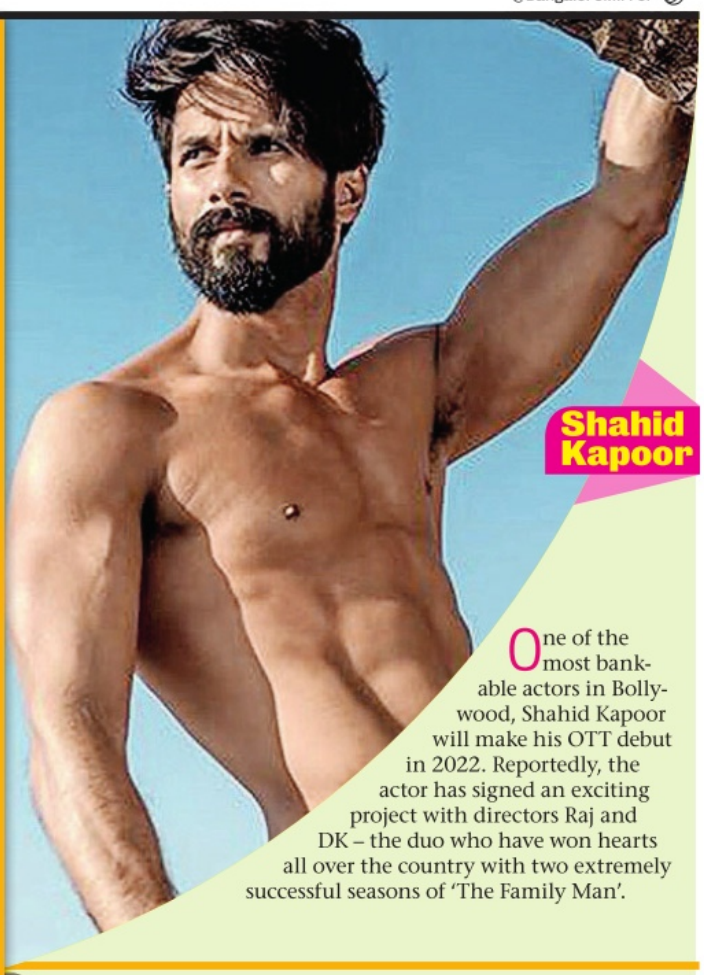
STAR DEBUTS

They are stars alright, but when it comes to OTT, these five are only making their debut this year

With the world of the web expanding, new stories and new faces have come to prominence. Apart from that, what's even more exciting is our favourite Bollywood stars too are rooting for them as they venture into the digital medium. Having said that, let's take a look at 5 Bollywood stars who are making their web debut this year.

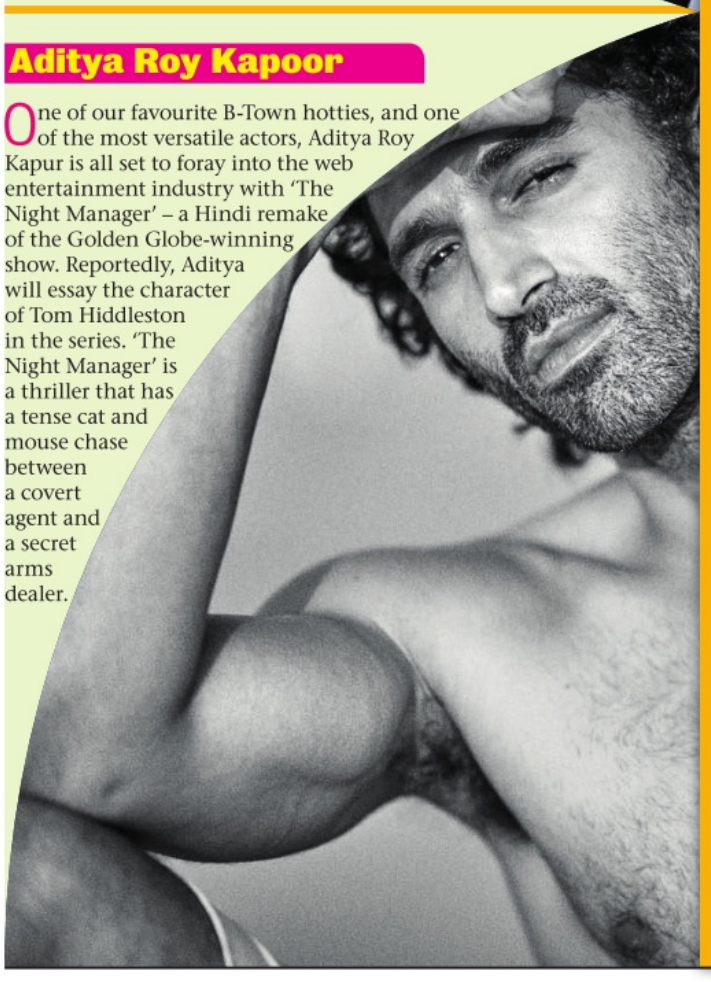
Madhuri Dixit

One of the most iconic faces of Hindi cinema right from classics to contemporaries, Madhuri Dixit is all set to make a debut on the OTT platform. The web series titled 'Finding Anamika' will mark Madhuri's entry into the medium. The first look was revealed during a fan event organised by the streaming platform. Helmed by Karan Johar, the suspenseful thriller also stars Manav Kaul and Gagan Arora in pivotal roles.



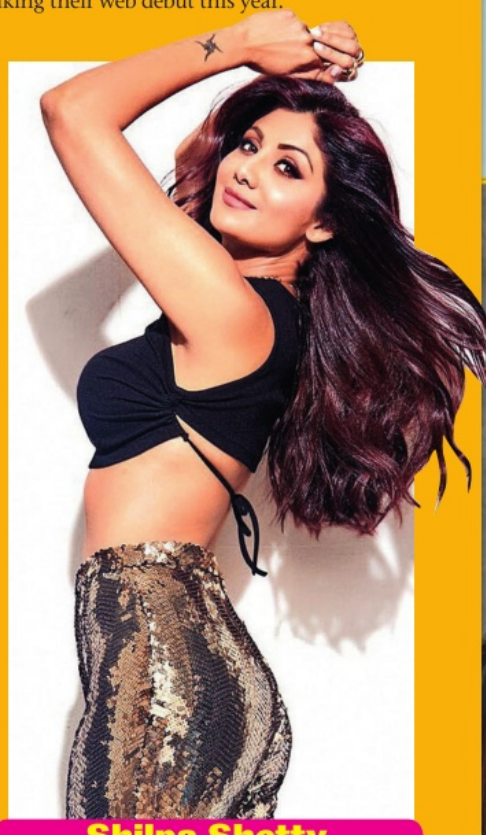
Shahid Kapoor

One of the most bankable actors in Bollywood, Shahid Kapoor will make his OTT debut in 2022. Reportedly, the actor has signed an exciting project with directors Raj and DK – the duo who have won hearts all over the country with two extremely successful seasons of 'The Family Man'.



Aditya Roy Kapoor

One of our favourite B-Town hotties, and one of the most versatile actors, Aditya Roy Kapur is all set to foray into the web entertainment industry with 'The Night Manager' – a Hindi remake of the Golden Globe-winning show. Reportedly, Aditya will essay the character of Tom Hiddleston in the series. 'The Night Manager' is a thriller that has a tense cat and mouse chase between a covert agent and a secret arms dealer.



Shilpa Shetty

One of the most beautiful actresses in Bollywood, Shilpa Shetty is all set to make a mark in the digital space with an untitled series. She is really looking forward to seeing how the audience will receive her. Speaking about it with a news portal, Shilpa earlier shared that it requires a lot of time, so if it's that one outing, then it really has to justify and be synonymous with her sensibilities.

Sonakshi Sinha

Known as the mass queen of Bollywood, Sonakshi Sinha too will be marking her entry in the digital medium with the release of her first OTT series 'Fallen'. The actor recently took to her instagram where she shared a heartfelt note of thank you for her director, Reema Kagti and producer, Zoya Akhtar for giving her the memorable role of Anjali Bhaati in the series.

That question really ticked PeeCee off

Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas says she usually doesn't get bothered by people's opinions but she was "pissed off" when an Australian journalist questioned her qualification for announcing Oscar nominations last year. In March last year, an Australian entertainment journalist tweeted wondering why the 39-year-old actor and her musician-husband Nick Jonas were roped in to unveil nominees for the 93rd Academy Awards.

Chopra Jonas posted a staunch reply to the journalist as she shared a video listing over 60 acting credits from her almost two decade-long career -- at home in Bollywood, including 'Mary Kom', '7 Khoon Maaf', 'Bajirao Mastani', her international debut with the ABC series 'Quantico' to her Hollywood feature debut 'Baywatch'.

"I usually don't get mad, but that just pissed me off," the 'Matrix Resurrections' star said.

She further said she usually confides in her family when she feels low and doesn't seem to get affected by people's opinions.

"I'll be mad, I'll be angry, I'll be annoyed. I'll speak about it to my family. I might cry a little bit, but it doesn't change my relationship with my work and what my actual quest is. My quest is not people's opinions. My quest is my job. My quest is making sure that when someone watches something that I have done, it moves them or they enjoy it. My personal life, who I am, all of that is not my job," she said.

The actor also spoke about the perils of social media where speculation was rife last month that all was not well in her marriage.She termed this as a "professional hazard". --PTI

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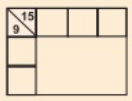
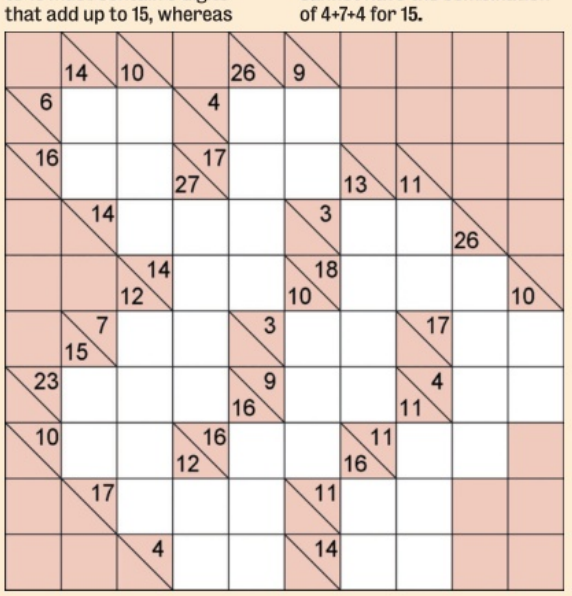
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

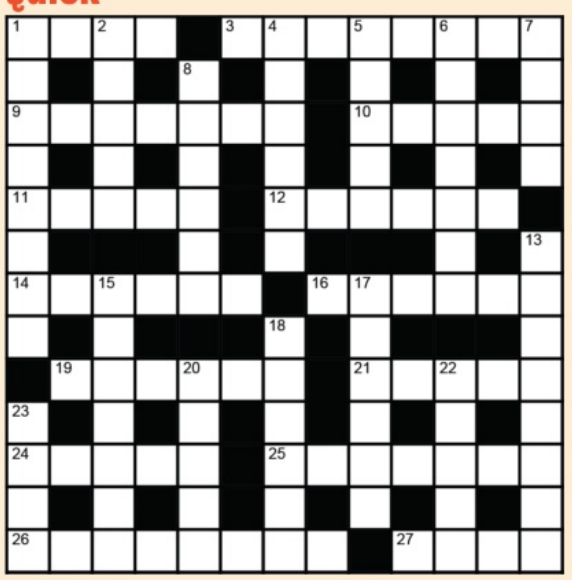


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Similar to, matching (4)
3 Revered (8)
9 Capitulate (7)
10 Go to the ___ : hold an election, perhaps? (5)
11 Artist's trestle (5)
12 Written account (6)
14 Breadth, scope or boundary (6)
16 ___ __ measure: Bespoke (4,2)
19 ___ at : shows contempt or disapproval (6)
21 At the same level (5)
24 Extremely fat (5)
25 Unsafe or not well-grounded (7)
26 Suffering (8)
27 Looked at keenly (4)

DOWN

1 Made fewer, decreased (8)
2 Strikes with the foot (5)
4 The elephants for the Mysore Dussehra were trained at this camp (6)
5 Receive enthusiastically? (3,2)
6 Extravagant purchase (7)
7 Flat plate (4)
8 Morose or ill-humoured (6)
13 Conspired for illegal gains (8)
15 Dabbles, dallies or fiddles with (7)
17 Military command (2,4)
18 Sticking points (6)
20 Less restricted (5)
22 Moneylending (5)
23 Affectionate (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS L

SLCCLN SL WAA KQDTLB DV SG DBL SLVDNL FAA CYFB SG FAA SLVDNL DBL.

Linemaro

Does your face hurt? Because it is killing me!

Mindchow

The first thing in the human personality that dissolves in alcohol is dignity

Joke of the day

Teacher to kid: Write a note on Sri Lanka. Kid wrote: It's a country whose map comes free along with the India map

Loop

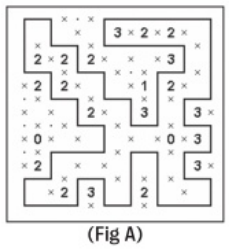
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

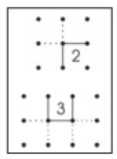
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

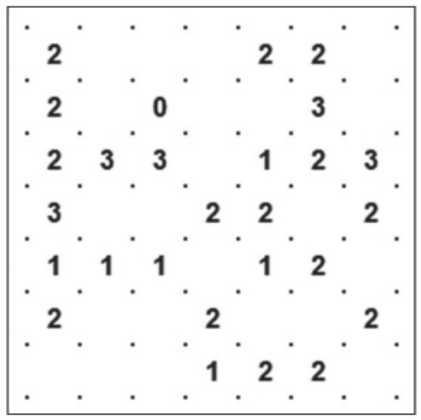
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



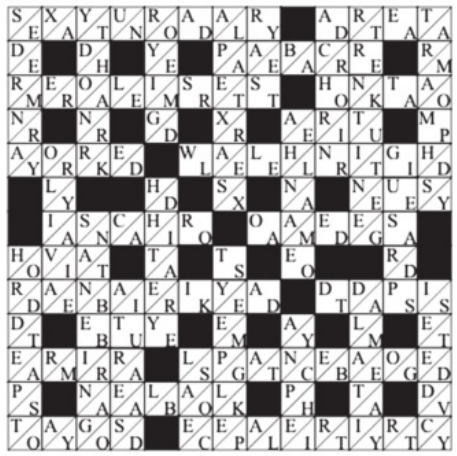
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



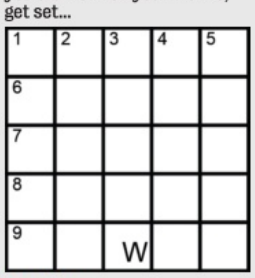
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

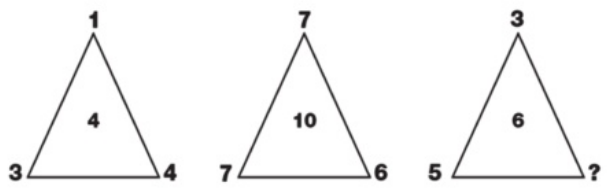
1 Boing; 6 Ma our; 7 Pad hi; 8 So ere; 9 Or Wed

DOWN

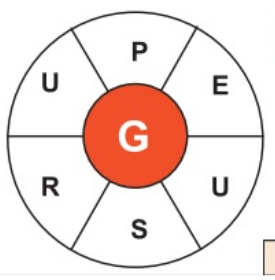
1 A bead; 2 Primo; 3 Who on; 4 Gl use; 5 Err do

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			9			1	8	
1					4	3		
9	3			8				
	7		5		3			1
		4				9		
2			1		9		6	
				9			5	4
		6	8					7
	9	8			2			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 26

4 5 8 9

Medium = 6

3 4 7 9

Hard = 16

2 4 6 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

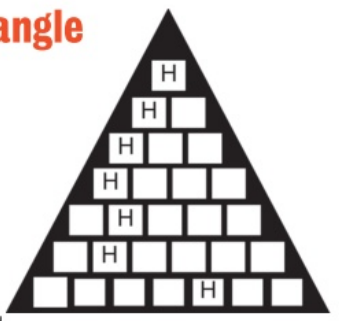
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Chair is smaller. 3. Tire is not visible. 4. Roof is smaller. 5. Tie is different. 6. Window is different.

Riddler

In hundreds Loyal, Brave, and Bold, That few can dare ignore, In uniforms of black and gold We gird ourselves for war. A single wound is all we give Armed with our lances keen A single onslaught as we live For Glory to our Queen. Who are we?

Alpha triangle

1 Planck's constant
2 Pronoun
3 Of a female
4 Legatee
5 Not our
6 Three times
7 Water vessel



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

I THINK IT'S TIME TO CHANGE MY IMAGE
BEAUTY SALON
I USED TO HAVE A "LOOK" THAT STOPPED MEN IN THEIR TRACKS
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF GROWING ANOTHER MUSTACHE, ARE YOU?
Yaates/Casson
11-2

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

ACTORS' AFTER-PARTY AT MY HOUSE!
HERE'S MY ADDRESS, HEART. SEE YOU AT THE AFTER-PARTY.
THIS FEELS LIKE A TRICK.
I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES... LARGELY YOURS... BUT I BELIEVE AN ACTOR IS AN ACTOR.
I AGREE.
WHICH IS WEIRD.
AND I'M SUSPICIOUS.
I'LL BE THERE.
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DAD?
I'M PUTTING IN A CLAIM WITH OUR INSURANCE FOR THE TREE THAT I BURNED.
I DON'T THINK OUR HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE WILL PAY FOR THAT, DAD.
I THOUGHT OF THAT TOO...
THAT'S WHY I'M FILING THE CLAIM WITH THEIR BRANCH OFFICE.
BATIUK & DAVIS
11-1

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Hold your tongue or you may affect people around you. You may spend hard earned money on worthless stuff. Your mind may work very fast. Make any important decision with patience.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You are blessed by the moon. Disappointment from the past days may be replaced by happiness. You may enjoy your professional and personal life. Your network may help you to complete postponed projects. You may start new ventures with the help of your siblings and your network may support you in every step.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may be busy at work. Your focus on your goal may be tested many times. Your patience may help you achieve your goals on time. Your dedication for work may be tested many times. You may receive some rewards as a result of hard work. You may invest in fixed assets too.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today your destiny may help you achieve success in easily. You may visit a religious place to seek peace of mind. You may spend your time to earn intellectual or occult-based knowledge. Students may do better. Singles may find a good match. Lovebirds may make an important decision about marriage.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may be busy at work. With the help of your strong network you may be able to implement some plans successfully. Your wisdom may help you to gain profits from past investments. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which will boost harmony in your domestic life. Lovebirds may enjoy happy moments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the moon, this may make you happy. Last week's crunch is over. With the help of blessings, you may be appreciated for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may initiate postponed works. You may receive gains from your business, which may boost your finance.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel dull. You may suffer from some health issues. You are advised to postpone investing in businesses. Do not start a new venture. You may face losses in your business. Your gains may convert to losses.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You will be happy. You may feel peace in your mind. Your focus on your goals will be very good. You may share a romantic moment with your spouse. Your bonding with them may become more strong. You will also be busy with domestic issues.

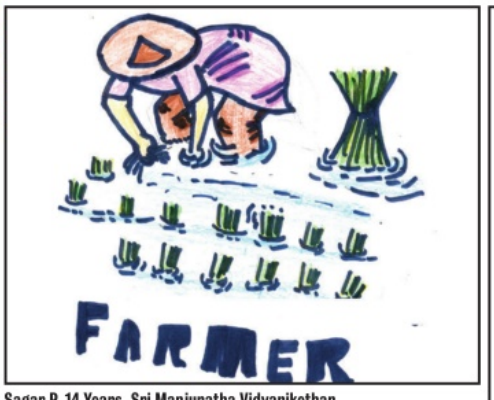
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be enthusiastic. Your performance at work may be good and may help improve your relationship with your seniors. You may receive new responsibilities or promotions. In legal matters, you may hear good news. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be able to complete a difficult task very easily. This may boost your confidence. Past investments may pay off with good gains. Avoid arguments on worthless topics. This may waste your precious time.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is not good. You may feel unhappy and dissatisfied. You are advised to be patient. Do not make any decisions in a hurry. Take care of your parents.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may make decisions quickly, which may be beneficial for your daily life. You may make some difficult decisions with the help of your colleagues and may succeed easily. Property-related disputes between siblings may get resolved. You may also expect to go on short trips.

KIDZONE



Sagar P, 14 Years, Sri Manjunatha Vidyanikethan

Kaveri Sriram,
8 Years,
Indus High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
25÷5=5
4×4×4=64
4×4=16
64÷16=80
2×2×2=16
80÷16=5
5×5=25

BULL'S EYE
gurru, gurge, purge, surge, UPSURGE, urge

STRIKE OUT

S	A	T	U	R	D	A	Y	A	R	A	T			
E	H		E	P	E	A	C	E	R					
R	E	A	L	I	S	E	S		O	N	T	O		
S	N	A	B	A	L	H		T		D				
E	M	I	R		S	P	A	C	E	A	G	E		
D		B	U	Y		M	A		M		E			
D	E	B	A	R	K	E	D		T	A	S	S		
O	V	A		A		T		O		R				
I		N	A	I	R		O	M	E	G	A			
	L		D		S		A		N	E	Y			
Y	O	K	E		W	E	L	L	N	I	G	H	T	
R	N		D		X		A	R	T		P			
S		C		L		U		P		O		L	S	
S	U	C	C	U	M	B		P	O	N	T	O		
T	A	G	S		C	E	L	E	R	I	T	Y		

FAST FIVE

B	I	N	G	O
A	M	O	U	R
A	P	H	I	D
E	R	O	S	E
D	O	W	E	R

RIDDLER Bees

QUOTE UNCODE
Better be ill spoken of by one before all than by all before one.

QUICK

L	I	K	E		I	D	O	L	I	S	E	D		
E		S	U		A		P		I					
S	K		L	A		U		C						
S	U	C	C	U	M	B		P	O	L	S			
N		R		E		E		R		E				
O	B	E	S	E		U	N	S	O	U	N	D		
F		K		R	S		A		S		U			
S	N	I	F	F	S		E	Q	U	A	L			
D		I		I		T				L				
E	X	T	E	N	T		M	A	D	E	T	O		
N		E		E		G				N		C		
E	A	S	E	L		R	E	P	O	R	T			
S	K		L	A		U		P		I				
S	U	C	C	U	M	B		P	O	L	S			
T	A	G	S		C	E	L	E	R	I	T	Y		

MENSA PUZZLE
4. In each triangle, the central number equals the sum of the three outer numbers divided by two.

SUDOKU

5	9	8	4	7	2	6	1	3
3	4	6	8	1	5	2	9	7
7	2	1	3	9	6	8	5	4
2	5	3	1	4	9	7	6	8
6	1	4	7	2	8	9	3	5
8	7	9	5	6	3	4	2	1
9	3	7	2	8	1	5	4	6
1	8	2	6	5	4	3	7	9
4	6	5	9	3	7	1	8	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
H, He, Her, Heir, Their, Thrice, Pitcher.

GO FIGURE
2 + 6 − 4 × 4 = 16
Hard
9 / 3 − 4 + 7 = 6
Medium
9 + 5 + 4 + 8 = 26
Easy

LOOP

KAKURO

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